

Changes to YoungStar for 2013

The items outlined in this document are clarifications or modifications that were made to YoungStar for 2013 implementation. These will be effective for any program that applies to YoungStar on or after January 1, 2013 or whose anniversary date is in 2013.

Family Child Care Programs			
Category	Indicator	2012 YoungStar Indicator	2013 YoungStar Indicator
Provider Education and Training	A.1	No Changes for 2013	
Learning Environment and Curriculum	B.2.2	Curriculum aligned with WMELS or SACF. Raters <i>may</i> have asked for <i>up to</i> four weeks of lesson plans (in addition to other pieces of evidence) to verify this indicator.	This indicator has been clarified and expanded upon to explain more thoroughly what a rater is looking for in regard to curriculum alignment. The rater <i>must</i> see the <i>most recent consecutive</i> four weeks of lesson plans in addition to other pieces of evidence.
	B.3.1	Provider completes individual child portfolios.	This indicator has been clarified and expanded upon to explain more thoroughly and give examples of what a rater is looking for in regard to individual child portfolios. To be considered complete, the rater must see at least one piece of evidence for each of the five portfolio categories listed for children birth to five and three pieces of evidence for school-age children. Additionally, the portfolio must be updated at least every three months to meet this indicator as well.
	B.3.2	Program uses intentional planning to improve child outcomes. Raters may have asked for <i>up to two months</i> of lesson plans (in addition to other pieces of evidence) to verify this indicator.	The rater must see the <i>most recent consecutive four weeks</i> of lesson plans in addition to other pieces of evidence to verify this indicator.
	B.3.3	Provider trained in annual developmental screenings.	Clarified that provider has to be trained and be conducting the screenings to receive this point.
	B.3.4	Individual child outcomes tracked	Clarified that 6 months of outcomes for every child in

			regular attendance must be demonstrated to receive this point.
Business and Professional Practices	C.2.1	Accurate taxes	Clarified that if the program has not been open for one full year, the program needs to show documentation for the time period they have been open to receive credit for this part of the indicator. Also, in lieu of a signature, a copy of electronically filed taxes is accepted.
	C.2.2	Provider contracts with parents for paid time off.	Clarified that a tear-out page from the parent handbook would be sufficient to receive credit for this part of the indicator.
	C.2.3	Written policies to reduce risk: Provider must post emergency drill records and emergency numbers.	Added the requirement for providers to post emergency drill routes and local emergency services contact information.
		Program reviews budget in a timely manner.	Defined a timely manner to be once every six months.
	C.3.4	Provider has active membership in a professional organization and attends four meetings annually.	If a provider belongs to more than one professional organization, he or she can receive credit for this indicator if they attend four total meetings per year. The meetings quota can be met by attending at least four meetings across multiple organizations. Additionally, a process and form was created to allow organizations to be submitted to DCF for recognition for this indicator.
	C.3.5	Did not exist prior to 2013.	Added the option for family providers to receive credit for having access to professional development materials on-site. This matches group and school-age quality indicators.
	C.4.1	Provider has health insurance for self and dependent children.	Clarified the ways in which provider can demonstrate they meet this indicator.
	C.4.2	Provider contracts with parents to have a minimum of 10 days off per year, 5 of which must be paid.	Clarified that only 5 of the days must be paid, not all 10.

	C.5.2	Families provide input on program policies and procedures: parent surveys alone do not meet the requirement for this indicator.	Clarified that if a provider conducts parent surveys and can demonstrate that the information gleaned from the survey is used to inform programming and policies, then the provider may be given credit for this indicator.
	C.5.5	Did not exist prior to 2013.	Added the option for family providers to receive credit for having family outreach, educational or social opportunities at least two times per year. This matches group and school-age quality indicators.
Health and Wellness	D.1.2	Program must provide 60 minutes of physical activity daily	Re-formatted the wording and explanation of the indicator to clarify expectations.
	D.1.4	Provider has training in Strengthening Families or child abuse and neglect prevention	Added a new child abuse and neglect prevention mandated reporter training. Noted that SCAN-MRT training will be accepted for 2013, but beginning January 1, 2014, new SCAN-MRT trainings will not meet the requirement for Indicator D.1.4. If a Provider has already taken SCAN-MRT prior to January 1, 2014, that training would meet the intent of this indicator. However, if the Provider took a SCAN-MRT training after January 1, 2014, it would not meet the intent of this indicator.

Group and School-Age Programs			
Category	Indicator	2012 Indicator	2013 YoungStar Indicator
Education and Training	A.1 and A.2	<p>Directors/site supervisors were allowed to serve in a dual-role as director/site supervisor and lead teacher/group leader with certain restrictions.</p> <p>There was no requirement for a director to be on-site at the program for any set amount of time.</p>	<p>For 2013, the rules for dual-role and alternatively administered programs have been modified to accommodate programs that have centralized administration. See page 3 of the Evaluation Criteria for a complete explanation.</p> <p>The person who is designated as the director shall be on-site at least 25% of the total number of hours they work for the program.</p> <p>Any time an Associate's degree is required for a point level, 60 credits beyond high school would also be accepted.</p>
Learning Environment and Curriculum	B.1.1	Self-assessment performed	To ensure that all staff and the director have input on the self-assessment, the program must demonstrate that at least 75% of staff members and the director have reviewed the self-assessment. This can be demonstrated through the signature page which will be available at the end of the sample YoungStar Self-Assessment.
	B.2.2	Curriculum aligned with WMELS or SACF. Raters <i>may</i> have asked for <i>up to</i> four weeks of lesson plans (in addition to other pieces of evidence) to verify this indicator.	This indicator has been clarified and expanded upon to explain more thoroughly what a rater is looking for in regard to curriculum alignment. The rater <i>must</i> see the <i>most recent consecutive</i> four weeks of lesson plans in addition to other pieces of evidence.
	B.3.1	Program completes individual child portfolios.	This indicator has been clarified and expanded upon to explain more thoroughly and give examples of what a rater is looking for in regard to individual child portfolios. To be considered complete, the rater must see at least one piece of evidence for each of the five

			portfolio categories listed for children birth to five and three pieces of evidence for school-age children. Additionally, the portfolio must be updated at least every three months to meet this indicator as well.
	B.3.2	Program uses intentional planning to improve child outcomes. Raters may have asked for <i>up to two months</i> of lesson plans (in addition to other pieces of evidence) to verify this indicator.	The rater must see the <i>most recent consecutive four weeks</i> of lesson plans in addition to other pieces of evidence to verify this indicator.
	B.3.3	Individual child outcomes tracked. Raters may have asked for <i>up to two months</i> of lesson plans to verify this indicator.	The rater must see the <i>most recent consecutive four weeks</i> of lesson plans in addition to other pieces of evidence to verify this indicator.
Business and Professional Practices	C.2.1	Accurate taxes	Clarified that if the program has not been open for one full year, the program needs to show documentation for the time period they have been open to receive credit for this part of the indicator. Also, in lieu of a signature, a copy of electronically filed taxes is accepted.
	C.2.2	Employment policies and procedures	<p>Job descriptions: Clarified that we would like to see something in policy that states that a person is given a job description upon hire.</p> <p>Salary/benefits Schedule: Added clarification around what a salary schedule could look like.</p> <p>Staff Evaluation: Clarified the requirements for evaluation of staff for programs that have been open less than one year and for staff who are newly employed. Clarified that having staff involved in the staff evaluation process means that staff have input on the process, not that each staff member evaluates every other staff member.</p>

	C.2.3	Model Work Standards	Added the requirement that programs in their second year and subsequent years of YoungStar are required to show progress on at least one goal from the previous year's action plan.
	C.3.4	Provider has active membership in a professional organization and attends four meetings annually.	If a provider belongs to more than one professional organization, he or she can receive credit for this indicator if they attend four total meetings per year. The meetings quota can be met by attending at least four meetings across multiple organizations. Additionally, a process and form was created to allow organizations to be submitted to DCF for recognition for this indicator.
	C.4.1	Access to health insurance	If the program can show that they offered the benefit but no one took it, they can earn credit for this indicator.
	C.4.2	Access to pension/retirement with contribution	If the program can show that they offered the benefit but no one took it, they can earn credit for this indicator.
	C.5.2	Families provide input on program policies and procedures: parent surveys alone do not meet the requirement for this indicator.	Clarified that if a program conducts parent surveys and can demonstrate that the information gleaned from the survey is used to inform programming and policies, then the program may be given credit for this indicator.
	C.5.6	Information about children's day-to-day activities shared with families.	Clarified that this is about the individual child and the information does not need to be shared every day, but the parents are to be kept updated on day-to-day activities.
Health and Wellness	D.1.2	Program must provide 60 minutes of physical activity daily	Re-formatted the wording and explanation of the indicator to clarify expectations.
	D.1.4	Staff is trained in Strengthening Families or child abuse and neglect prevention	Added a new child abuse and neglect prevention mandated reporter training. Noted that SCAN-MRT training will be accepted for 2013, but beginning

			<p>January 1, 2014, new SCAN-MRT trainings will not meet the requirement for Indicator D.1.4. If a staff have already taken SCAN-MRT prior to January 1, 2014, that training would meet the intent of this indicator. However, if the staff took a SCAN-MRT training after January 1, 2014, it would not meet the intent of this indicator.</p>
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